(12) Agricultural Banks should be established and worked under the supervision of the proposed Agricultural Boards.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

42. The means and measures necessary for the stability and improvement of puncha cultivation in Kuttanad.

Mr. K. C. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that the lands in Kuttanad, unlike those of Nanjanad, could not be artificially manured. The alluvial deposit from the river was carried to the distant *puncha* lands by certain canals dug by the people years ago. Those canals had now been encroached upon in many places, and even the portions left were in a very neglected condition, being mostly silted up. The manurial deposit from the river could not therefore reach the *puncha* lands. Another obstacle to *puncha* cultivation came from the owners of lands adjoining the river, who raised up those lands and converted them into cocoanut gardens, thereby shutting out all chances of the manure from the river finding its way to the *puncha* fields. There was also culpable neglect on the part of land-owners in maintaining the bunds of paddy lands properly. As it was imperative that such impediments to *puncha* cultivation should be at once removed, the Member suggested that an enactment should be passed and land-owners should be required to take permission from the Tahsildar to convert wet lands into gardens. They should also be compelled to strengthen their bunds and the omission to do so should be made penal. There should be provision to enable the owners injuriously affected by such neglect to do the needful works themselves and recover the cost from the men at fault. He also suggested that steps should be taken to remove the encroachments on the canals, wherever they were shown on the map. But many canals, not on the map, were even more useful for agriculture. They should be ascertained during the Land Records Maintenance and restored to their original condition, in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

The Member next said that the 500 acres of land proposed to be set apart in Prakattukari to serve as a grazing ground was quite inadequate to meet requirements. At least 2,000 acres should be reserved there for the purpose.

The next requirement was in the matter of medical aid for diseased cattle. The nearest veterinary hospital was the one at Kottayam and that was of no use to the ryots of Kuttanad. The *puncha* lands extended, from east to west, over a distance of 18 miles. Three veterinary hospitals should therefore be established for the area, one each at the eastern and western extremities, and one in the centre. It was also necessary to establish a few cattle-pounds in convenient centres in the locality.

The Member lastly referred to the difficulty of strengthening the *chiravarambu* (bunds) of lands reclaimed from the Vembanad lake. Branches and leaves (ഓലപ്പട) were required for the purpose. He requested that small hills in the vicinity should be reserved and the material needed made available to the ryots at a moderate price.

Dewan's reply.—The Director of Agriculture will be asked to report on the suggestions of the Member.

43. Certain suggestions in regard to the system of irrigation in South Travancore.

Mr. M. Subramonia Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that, since notifying his subject, he read the G. O. settling the date of opening the Kodayar Reservoir. Under that, the ryots got a concession of about 12 days in the matter of the water-supply. He had therefore been specially asked to drop the discussion of that point for the present, and, on behalf of the Nanjanad people, he conveyed to the Government their hearty thanks for the concession given.

He next referred to the floods in the Pazhayar, and said that they were of frequent occurrence and destroyed hundreds of acres of paddy lands every year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In his opinion, the chief causes were the existence of the Mission Dam, the Pillappattu Dam and several encroachments on the river. The matter had been brought forward in the Sixth and Ninth Sessions of the Assembly.

Dewan.—Reports have been called for from the Chief Engineer and the Peishkar.

The Member continued and said that early action should be taken to prevent the floods. Steps should also be taken to remove the encroachments on the sides of the Pazhayar.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

44. Certain agricultural needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that, last year, he spoke about the necessity for removing the encroachments on the sides of the Thettiyar Channel. Agreeably to the orders of the Government, the Taluk authorities had measured about 4 miles of the channel, but he was sorry to say that they were continuing the work in the wrong way. At the fourth mile, there were two bifurcations—one to the Anathazhchira and the other to the mountains. They were measuring the branch running to the mountains. That was a mistake. It was the branch to Anathazhchira that required to be attended to.

Near the 13th mile on the Pallipuram road, Survey Nos. 673, 674 and 1951 in Andurkonam *pakuthi* had been set apart as grazing ground. The Member said that, contrary to orders, attempts were now being made to register those lands, and he requested that fresh orders should issue not to do so. The grazing block was very necessary at the locality.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

45. Agricultural disabilities of the Shencotta taluk.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar B. A. (Member, Shencotta taluk) said that the agricultural disabilities of the Shencotta taluk had formed one of the subjects from the taluk ever since the inception of the Assembly and was brought up even last year. The constant failure of crops in the taluk was due to the want of capacity of tanks, the dependence of tanks and channel-fed lands on wild streams for water, and the absence of at least one common reservoir to supplement the water in the tanks. In regard to the improvement of tanks, he said that the restoration might be left to the ryots to be effected at their cost, the Government taking the responsibility of increasing the capacity of the tanks by acquiring more lands and the like. The irrigation works done in the taluk did not in any way benefit the channel-fed lands. The suggestion made at the last session, of putting up some big common reservoir to supplement the petty channels and tanks, was therefore the only feasible course. He mentioned the north-east of Atchanpudur in the Achankoil river, the Muriapanchan, the Paluruvy, and the Karikulamancholai as the best places available for a reservoir.

The Member next referred to the want of roads for agricultural traffic, and he requested that the following roads might be improved and their maintenance done under the supervision of the leading ryots.

(1) The roads from Moonuvaikal to Karkudi *via*. Thavanai.

(2) The old *raja pathai* (road) from Puliyara.

(3) The Mancholai roads from Karkudi.

The Member said that, in both the matters mentioned above, it would be an advantage to institute an enquiry under the presidency of the Executive Engineer, Quilon, instead of the Chief Engineer.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly